THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Accoding to the information available with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the generation capacity of Captive Power Plants (CPP) of capacity more than 1 MW was 21468 MW as on 31.3.2006 and 22335 MW as on 31.3.2007. During the year 2005-06, 5364.74 Million Units of electricity have been exported by these CPPs to the utilities. No sanction is required under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 for setting up captive power plants.

(d) and (e) Government has taken various legislative, policy and administrative measures to facilitate captive generation and utilization of surplus capacity.

Under the Electricity Act, 2003, captive power plants, including group captive, have been freely permitted. The Act provides that any person may construct, maintain or operate a captive generating plant and dedicated transmission lines. Under the provisions of the Act, every person, who has constructed a captie generating plant and maintains and operates such plant, shall have the right to open access for the purposes of carrying electricity from his captive generating plant to the destination of this use subject to the availability of transmission capacity.

National Electricity Policy, notified in February, 2005, emphasizes the need for bringing surplus capacity available with a large number of captive and standby generating stations in India to the grid continuously or durting certain time periods.

Tariff Policy, notified in January, 2006, recognizes that captive generation is an important means to make competitive power available and urges the Electricity Regulatory Commission to creat an enabling environment that encourages captive plants to be connected to the grid.

The conference of Chief Ministers, on power sector, held in May, 2007, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, has resolved to facilitate captive power plants to provide the spare generating capacity to the grid and strive to do away with restrictive levies, duties and regulations in a time bound manner.

Demand for power equipments

437. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that demand for power transmission and distribution equipment would grow over 2.5 times in number of units during the next five years amounting to Rs. 1.62 lakh crores by 2012;

(b) if so, whether the country has adequate manufacturing domestic outfits to meet this projected demand;

(c) whether any such equipment was imported during 2006-07, which in monetary terms is estimated to be around Rs. 1.05 crores and

(d) what was the expenditure on R&D activities in power sector during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the assessment made in the Eleventh Plan Working Group on Power, the total invesment in Transmission & Distribution during the Eleventh Plan has been estimated to be of the order of Rs.4.27 lakh crores which would include cost of Transmission & distribution equipments along with expenditure for civil works, erection, commissioning, supervision, overhead chargs etc.

(b) There are adequate domestic manufacturing outfits to meet the demand for power transmission and distribution equipment in the country, In addition, various manufacturers and increasing their capacities to meet this demand. Ministry of power is also interacting with Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers Association (IEEMA) and other manufacturers so that the projected demands are met.

(c) No such specific information is available with Ministry of Power.

(d) The expenditure of Research and Development (R & D) in power sector is made both by public and private sector. The expenditure on R & D by various Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPUs) under Ministry of Power during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was Rs.36.39 crore, Rs. 27.06 crores and Rs.33.52 crores respectively.

Post matric scholarships for SCs and STs

438. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minsiter of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any decision to impose the condition of sixty per cent marks as a criterion for eligibility for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students for post-matric scholarships in professional institutions;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons for the same;

(c) if so, the number of such scholarships issued to students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) if so, whether any representations have been submitted for scrapping the above proposal;

(e) if so, the details of action taken on the above representations; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (f) The Government of India has decided to implement the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students, as it operated during the Tenth Plan period.

Menance of beggary

439. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that beggary is on increase in the country these days;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to put a clear ban on the beggary in the country and by when it expected to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?